Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Rara Arithmetica. By DAVID EUGENE SMITH. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1908. Pp. xiii+506. Edition in one volume, $5.50.

The subtitle states that this book is a catalogue of the arithmetics written before the year 1601 with a description of those in the library of George A. Plimpton of New York. This collection of early arithmetics, more than three hundred in number, is the largest that has been brought together; and there are few important arithmetics published before the year 1601 that are not found in it.

The list of the writers of these early printed books contains some familiar names. Among others there are Boethius, Cassiodorus, Archimedes, Euclid, Nicomachus, the Venerable Bede, Tartaglia, Carden, and Melanchthon. The profuse reproduction of the quaint title-pages and illustrations of these old books together with a brief statement of their contents gives one a feeling of acquaintance with old arithmetics. There are more than two hundred and fifty facsimiles of pages showing the first printed mention of a slate, the first traces of modern long division in manuscript and print, the first use of the decimal point and the first scientific treatment of decimals, various forms of multiplication and division, and many other interesting details of the development of arithmetic. Herein lies the great value of the present volume. The ordinary history of mathematics gives the facts of the development of arithmetic, but here one can see the real work of the early mathematicians, and trace in their own handiwork the introduction of symbols and the growth of methods and processes.

The publishers are to be commended for the mechanical excellence of the book. The paper, typography, and binding make it a very attractive volume.

Elements of Business Arithmetic. By A. H. BIGELOW AND W. A. ARNOLD. New York: Macmillan, 1911. Pp. x+258. $0.70.

It is the purpose of this book to present the fundamental operations of modern business, and give a thorough drill in the computations of present-day commercial practice. The subject-matter and form of presentation have been tested for nearly ten years in manuscript form by the authors. As they believe that arithmetic should be kept entirely apart from algebra and geometry, teachers who wish to teach pure arithmetic with no problems and exercises in sketching, drawing, construction, measuring, and so on, will be interested in this book.

The omission of obsolete topics, the simple and easily understood treatment of those topics directly applicable to the problems of the present day, the large number of problems relating to things within the life experience of the pupils, the problems of easy solution for mental arithmetic, and the detailed information in regard to business practice would seem to assure good training in the field to which the authors have limited their work.

LEWIS INSTITUTE H. E. COBB
CHICAGO

A Laboratory Manual of Physical Geography. By R. S. TARR AND O. D. VON ENGELN. New York: Macmillan, 1910. Pp. xvii+362. $1.25.

This manual is undoubtedly the most comprehensive that has yet appeared. The authors have aimed to make it practical and usable with a minimum equip-